



Newsletter

Volume 6

Spring 2013

Will's Story

The Mission of Camp Agape

To provide a free summer camping experience, in a setting of *agape* (the kind of unconditional love God has for each of us) for Vermont children who have experienced the incarceration of a parent.

2013 Camp Dates

Ages 8-11:
August 4-9

Ages 12-15:
July 14-19

At
Covenant Hills
Christian Camp
Cabot, VT

Will first attended Camp Agape in 2009 when he was seven years old. At that young age, he was already an amazing drummer. He could roll seamlessly from snare to tom-tom to cymbal in complicated cadences. He idolized his father who taught him this skill before leaving for prison. Will had a very difficult time at camp that first year. His behavior mirrored the disorder of his young life, and we were unable to keep him safe. He wanted to go home, and his lack of safety required us to send

him back home to his grandmother by the second day of camp. Will returned to try camp again when he was nine. By then, he was receiving one-on-one assistance in an alternative school placement. We weren't sure that we had the skill to do this, but we welcomed him back, prepared to love and accept him with a completely clean slate. Guess what? He loved camp! His attitude was enthusiastic and positive. He formed strong bonds with his counselors and made good friends.

This year, he will return for his fourth summer. Will's grandmother, the only consistent care-giver in his life, has recently lost her battle with cancer. Again, we don't know if we have the skill to do this, but we do know that we share a space in God's heart with Will, and that is all that any of us need.



Camp Agape Wins National ACA Award

Camp Agape Vermont was one of four programs to receive the 2012 Eleanor P. Eells Award for Program Excellence presented at the 2013 American Camping

Association National Conference in Dallas, Texas. A purpose of the award is to encourage the development of creative responses to societal problems through camp.

Sheri Smith, a Camp Agape board member, was on hand to accept the award. "I was approached by many individuals who were curious about our mission and the campers we serve", Continue page 2

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A group of people are participating in a high ropes course in a forest. One person is on a wooden platform, another is climbing a rope, and others are on the ground. The course is set up with tall wooden poles and ropes. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

Flying high at Coutts-Moriarty Camp in Derby, VT

***“The real point of being
alive is to evolve into the person
you were meant to be.”***

An older camper’s bedside poster



The wonder of creation at Groton State Park.



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Sheri Smith accepts award at national ACA conference

So Much Fun—Camp Agape 2012



Eighteen new campers and twenty-nine returning campers enjoyed a program packed with encouragement, challenge, meaning, and, oh yes -FUN! We had many visitors including a map-maker, a trumpeter, a fisherman, a troop of Rainbow Girls, a drummer. Duncan McDougall from the Children's Literacy Foundation held the campers rapt with his story-telling before letting them choose two new books each. Cara Gleason, formerly of Kids-A-Part, engaged the campers in making prayer flags to express what lays heavily on their hearts and minds. There was still plenty of time for swimming, archery, hiking, carpentry, campfires, dress-up, and much more.



WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2013?

The Permanent Fund for the Well-Being of Vermont Children has been a huge supporter of Camp Agape in the past. They are now focusing on programs for very young children. While we search for new sources of support, we have committed to filling a one-week camp with 40 children and tuitioning up to 24 older campers to Covenant Hills, including 10 in the Camp Agape for Older Kids program.



2012 Financial Summary

EXPENSES

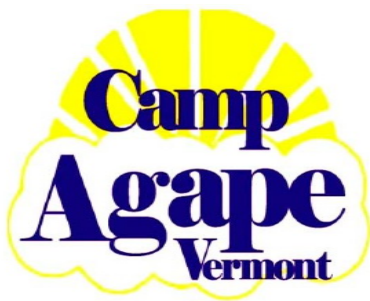
Covenant Hills contract
(facilities, meals, staff).....\$24,480
Stipends to expand staff.....\$1255
Camper gear, supplies.....\$3191
Program Coordinator.....\$939
Graduate Campers(17).....\$6715
Board/Director's Insurance....\$1054
Printing, mailing, storage.....\$2419
Total Expense.....\$40,053

IN KIND DONATIONS

Handmade Quilts.....\$15,200
Donated Supplies.....\$3800
Volunteer Staff... @\$10/Hr..\$21,600
Volunteer Board..@\$10/Hr....\$6300
Camper Transportation.....\$900
Total In Kind Donated.....\$47,800

REVENUES

Individual Donors\$14,041
Congregations.....\$12,879
VT Permanent Fund.....\$10,000
Family Foundations.....\$6010
Total Revenues.....\$42,930



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**Please
VOLUNTEER**

Please DONATE

Email: campagapevermont@yahoo.com

An ecumenical ministry of:

The New England Conference of The United Methodist Church

The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

The Vermont Conference of The United Church of Christ

The Prayers of Our Campers

What Can You Do ?

- Do you have a special skill or activity to share with campers?
- Can you spend a week being a friend and mentor at camp?
- Can you gather good new or nearly new books for our campers?
- Can you organize your church to contribute funds or supplies?
- Can you come help with fishing or carpentry times?
- Do you have legal, organizational, or fund-raising talent to share with the board?

Visit our website:

www.campagapevermont.org



*“Do your
little bit of good
where you are; it’s
those little bits of
good put together
that overwhelm the
world.”*

Desmond Tutu.

- ♦ VOLUNTEER
- ♦ DONATE
- ♦ PRAY